Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /067 W
----------140609Z 060674 /22
R 132224Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3135
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CONSULATES IN CANADA (BY POUCH)

UNCLAS OTTAWA 02649

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, CA
SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 8.1 PERCENT

REF: OTTAWA 1552

1. LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES FOR MARCH, RELEASED BY STATISTICS CANADA ON APRIL 13, SHOW SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ROSE TO 8.1 PERCENT FROM 7.9 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY. SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED EMPLOYMENT LEVEL WAS UP 16,000 TO 9,672,000, BUT UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL INCREASED 27,000 TO 856,000.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL INCREASED FOR MEN 15 TO 24 YEARS OF AGE (UP 7,000), FOR MEN 25 YEARS AND OVER (UP 11,000) AND FOR WOMEN 25 YEARS AND OVER (UP 10,000). LEVEL VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED FOR WOMEN 15 TO 24 YEARS. EMPLOYMENT LEVEL INCREASED 15,000 FOR WOMEN 25 AND OVER AND 10,000 FOR WOMEN 15 TO 24. EMPLOYMENT LEVEL DECREASED 8,000 FOR MEN 25 YEARS AND OVER AND SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE FOR MEN 15 TO 24.

3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL INCREASED IN
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PROVINCES OTHER THAN MANITOBA AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY PROVINCE IN MARCH WAS: NEWFOUNDLAND, 16.1 PERCENT (UP 1.0 PERCENT); PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, 9.9 PERCENT (UP 0.9 PERCENT); NEW BRUNSWICK, 14.3 PERCENT (UP 1.3 PERCENT); QUEBEC, 10.0 PERCENT (UP 0.3 PERCENT); ONTARIO, 7.1 PERCENT (UP 0.3 PERCENT); SASKATCHEWAN, 4.6 PERCENT (UP 0.9

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PERCENT); ALBERTA, 4.5 PERCENT (UP 0.5 PERCENT); BRITISH COLUMBIA, 8.8 PERCENT (UP 0.6 PERCENT; AND MANITOBA, 5.7 PERCENT (DOWN 0.3 PERCENT).

4. NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, EMPLOYMENT LEVEL WAS 9,350,000 IN MARCH COMPARED TO 9,259,000 A YEAR AGO. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 944,000, COMPARED TO 759,000 IN MARCH 1976, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 9.2 PERCENT COMPARED TO 7.6 PERCENT A YEAR AGO.

5. COMMENT: ACCORDING RADIO COMMENTATORS REPORTING ON LABOR FORCE FIGURES APRIL 13, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 8.1 PERCENT IS HIGHEST IN 25 YEARS. HOWEVER, LABOR FORCE SURVEY REVISED EXTENSIVELY IN 1975 AND ESTIMATES BASED ON REVISED SURVEY ONLY GO BACK TO 1970. HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SINCE 1954 UNDER FORMER LABOR FORCE SURVEY WAS IN 1960 AND 1961 WHEN RATE WAS 7.1 PERCENT.

6. FORECASTERS HAD PREDICTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WOULD RISE ABOVE 8 PERCENT DURING 1977 BEFORE BEGINNING TO RECEDE. HOWEVER, MARCH INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL WAS FOURTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH-TO-MONTH INCREASE, AND LIBERAL GOVERNMENT CAN EXPECT MOUNTING CRITICISM OF GOC ECONOMIC AND JOB-CREATING POLICIES BY OPPOSITION PARTIES WHEN PARLIAMENT RESUMES. ENDERS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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